

Notes and Observations

NOTES ON THE PUPATION SITES OF FOUR SPECIES OF THE GENUS *COLEOPHORA* HUBN. — Whilst at Mr. David Wilson's house at Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, on 14th June, 1974, I found four cases of *Coleophora albitarsella* Zell. attached, ready for pupation, to his kitchen ceiling. They had clearly originated from the herb garden outside the back door. What struck me was that the larvae had pupated high up and not as stated by Ford, *A Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera* (1949), "attached to a stem low down or on rubbish on the ground". The only other case of this species I have found was feeding on Marjoram at Cuxton Warren, Kent, on 10th June, 1975. This pupated on the lid of its container. As the case is slightly curved, long thin and black, could it not be that the full fed larva wanders away from its feeding place to find a suitable bush or tree on which to pupate, posing as a twig? Whenever I have previously found feeding of this species in June, I have never found the case, despite close and careful search.

If this theory is correct, then the invasion of scrub on downland might be beneficial to the species and when looking for the case, plants near to and amongst the scrub might be more productive.

I have also had a similar experience with *Coleophora lithargyrinella* Zell. At Ellenden Wood, Kent, on 17th May, 1975, I found a larva of this species attached to the sunny side of a mature Oak at a height of about 6 feet. The tree was on the edge of a young Chestnut coppice, carpeted with Stitchwort. Ford (1949) states the pupation site as "attached to a stem". The near prostrate, brown case was well hidden in a crack of the bark. The whitish case of the other Stitchwort feeding species, *Coleophora solitariella* Zell. is certainly more suited to pupating amongst the chlorotic vegetable matter that one finds under the thick growth of Stitchwort growing under roadside hedges.

On 1st June, 1975, at Ashford Warren, Kent, I found a case of *Coleophora caespitiella* Zell. (*agrammella* Wood.), the larva of which had bored into the pith of an old broken stem of a *Juncus* sp. The larva bored deeper, after I had opened the stem a little. This is a very late date for the larva, as the moth normally emerges at the beginning of June. The explanation probably lies in the fact that this larva turned out to be parasitised. — S. E. WHITEBREAD, 2 Twin Cottage, Grove Farm, Higham, Nr. Rochester, Kent, 15.xi.75.

NEW OVIPAROUS MORPH ON *MELANAPHIS SACCHARI* (ZEHNTNER) ON SORGHUM. — Although *Melanaphis sacchari* (Zehntner, 1901) is known in all tropical countries of the world as a sorghum or sugarcane aphid, its sexual morphs have so far not been noted on any of these plants. Collections taken in Ludhiana, Punjab, in the latter half of February 1972 on

sorghum, contained many apterous oviparous females with the usual swollen hind tibiae with many pseudosensoria. The abdomen of each female contained four to five eggs. The colony consisted of creamy yellow nymphs and yellow or purple adults, and both apterous forms were oviparae. The discovery of oviparae on sorghum makes the aphid holocyclic on sorghum. Further studies are in progress. — S. K. DAVID, Professor Emeritus, E3, M.I.G. Flats, Cowley Brown Road, Combatore, 2, 641002, Tamil Nadu; and G. S. SANDHU, Dept. of Entomology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab, India.

CATAPLECTICA FARRENI WALSINGHAM (LEP.: EPERMENIIDAE) IN KINCARDINESHIRE. — On 26th June, 1975 I took a single specimen of this moth at Muchalls, Kincardineshire. This is apparently the first Scottish record for the species, which has previously been reported only from Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Northamptonshire. It is believed to feed on seeds of *Pastinaca sativa* L., but, if my memory serves me correctly, mine was taken on *Heracleum sphondylium* L. while I was looking for specimens of *Cydia aurana* Fab. — DR. JOHN R. LANGMAID, 38, Cumberland Court, Festing Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, PO4 0NH.

LEPIDOPTERA IN THE ISLES OF SCILLY AND CORNWALL IN JUNE, 1975. — I made a further trip to the Isles of Scilly from 14th to 21st June, 1975. Based on St. Mary's, I visited St. Agnes, Tresco, Bryher and the uninhabited island of Samson. The weather was mainly warm, sunny and breezy with a few light showers but, unfortunately, the short excursion to Bryher was virtually ruined by the only heavy rain of the week.

I noted the following butterflies. Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria* L.), common on St. Mary's, fairly common on St. Agnes but very few seen on Tresco. Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina* L.), a few on St. Mary's only. Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta* L.), a few on St. Mary's and one seen on St. Agnes. Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae* L.), only two seen, both on St. Mary's. Large White (*Pieris brassicae* L.), common on St. Mary's and a few on St. Agnes and Tresco. Small White (*P. rapae* L.), common on St. Mary's, fairly common on St. Agnes and a few on Tresco and Bryher. Green-veined White (*P. napi* L.), common on St. Mary's. Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas* L.), one on St. Mary's and one on St. Agnes were the only sightings. Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus* Rott.): Recorded on St. Mary's, St. Agnes and Samson, imbibing almost exclusively at Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Seen in small numbers in several localities on St. Mary's. Bird's-foot Trefoil was growing in profusion on Wingletang Down, St. Agnes but a short search during a dull period produced only two specimens. The flower was also well in evidence at the northern end of Samson but, unfortunately, a thorough scrutiny would have meant encroaching on a tern colony which was, of course, out of the question; a limited search, however, revealed four specimens of *icarus*.